

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-12 COME-00 PRS-01

DRC-01 /166 W

----- 051871

R 061140Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4465

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1255

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF/C DIRECTOR COHEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, EMIN

SUBJECT: NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

REF KINSHASA 10325 AND 10382

1. AFTER STUDYING REFTELS, MY INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT MOBUTU HAS LEFT CORE WESTERN ECONOMIC INTERESTS INTACT, ESPECIALLY IF COMPENSATION IS PAID FOR UNAMBIGUOUS NATIONALIZATIONS. SOME OF THE AGRIBUSINESS TAKEOVERS ARE PROBABLY ACTUALLY WELCOMED BY BELGIAN OWNERS, WHO WERE SUBMARGINAL ANYWAY.

2. KEY PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH WAS ALREADY JITTERY BECAUSE OF (A) HEAVY EURODOLLAR BORROWINGS, (B) THE XENOPHOBIC FALLOUT OF AUTHENTICITY, AND (C) MOBUTU'S INCREASING NON-ALIGNMENT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT MOBUTU SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE TO OFFSET THIS POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT BY FOLLOWING UP ON HIS OCTOBER 4 REMARKS TO US BUSINESS LEADERS AT
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THE FNCB LUNCHEON. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR MOBUTU OR

BISENGEMANA TO WRITE LETTER TO WRISTON OF FNCB EXPLAINING
HOW RECENT MEASURES ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH MOBUTU'S
PROMISES ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY? SUCH
GESTURE WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL BOOSTER TO SAGGING BUSINESS
MORALE.
DALE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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